CLAIMS

1) A barrel grasping and lifting device (5) substantially cylindrical in shape and comprising a lower surface (7), an upper surface (6) and a peripheral surface (8), comprising a system for grasping the upper surface of the barrel, at least one moveable arm (19) that can be moved vertically in relation to the grasp system (9) and alongside the peripheral surface, and at least one finger (29) fitted under the arm that can be moved under the lower surface, characterised in that the grab system comprises a centring mechanism (36) comprising fingers (39) that can be extended radially,

2) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to claim 1, characterized in that the grasp system (9) is suspended from a column (14), the arm (19) is suspended from a plate (20) sliding along the column (14), and an elevator system (21, 22, 27) adjusts the height of the plate of the column.

3) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to claim 2, characterized in that the plate comprises a carriage (32) which slides radially, and from which the arm is suspended, and a carriage slide control means.

4) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to claim 3, characterized in that the carriage comprises a means of rotating (29, 30, 31) the

finger (26), and in that the finger is lifted whilst rotating on the arm and is connected to the rotating means by a rod (28) located on the arm.

5) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to any of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that the grasp system (9) comprises a support (10), at least one suction cap (11), and a ball and socket (12) for mounting the suction cap onto the support.

6) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to any of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that it comprises means for inspecting the barrel.

7) A barrel grasping and lifting device according to claim 6, characterised in that the barrel inspecting means comprise means (44) located on the arm (19), and means (41, 42) located within the grab system (9).